

28. Mr. Zhou Zhenmin, Baoding, Hebei—Arrested May 23, 1999. (Our press release July 5, 1999.) Current status unknown.

29. Mr. Zhou Zhenquan, Baoding, Hebei—Arrested May 23, 1999. (Our press release July 5, 1999.) Current status unknown.

30. Mr. Zhou Zimin, Xiagangcun Village, Sunfangzhen Township, Chongren County, Jiangxi—Arrested June 26, 1999, prosecuted August 13, 1999 and found guilty. (Our press release November 2, 1999.) Sentenced to one year—AFP release Nov. 2, 1999.

C. Previously imprisoned, now released:

1. Father Chen HeKun, Quantou, Hebei—Arrested January 1999 (Our press release January 31, 1999.) Now released.

2. Father Chu Guangyao, Shanghai—Arrested August 3, 1999, and released August 5, 1999. Arrested again August 16. Now released.

3. Ms. Gao Shuping, Lin Chuan City, Jiangxi—Arrested Nov. 1996. Now released.

4. Ms. Gao Shuyin, Chongren County, Jiangxi—Arrested April, 1995. Now released.

5. Ms. Guo, Jiancheng—An Jia Zhuang Village, Xushui County, Baoding, Hebei—Arrested in 1996. Now released.

6. Father Hu Duo, Baoding, Hebei—Arrested Spring, 1997. Sentenced to 3 years. Now released.

7. Father Liao Haiqing, Yu Jiang, Jiangxi—Arrested in August, 1995. (Our press release October 9, 1995.) Now released.

8. Father Lu Genyou, Baoding, Hebei—Arrested April 5, 1998, released around April 20, 1998. (Our press release April 15, 1998 and our press release May 10, 1998.) Now released.

9. Father Wang Qunjun, Baoding, Hebei—Arrested September, 1997. (Fides press release, December, 1997.) Now released.

*Summary of victims (murdered recently or suffering for their faith)*

Murdered recently .....	1
Bishops .....	13
Priests .....	13
Laity .....	30
Previously imprisoned, now released .....	9
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>63</b>

**TRIBUTE TO MARDI MONTGOMERY, KENTUCKY TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

(Mr. FLETCHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge an outstanding educator in central Kentucky and one of the exemplary teachers of this Nation. As a freshman and senior honors English teacher at Boyle County High School, this teacher of 6 years has added a curriculum that instills compassion and understanding in her students.

Recently, the Kentucky Department of Education selected this distinguished teacher, Mardi Montgomery, as Kentucky Teacher of the Year for 2000. She was nominated for this honor by her fellow teachers and selected, along with others, from a list of very deserving semifinalists.

Mrs. Montgomery sought to integrate her students with the community by forming the Boyle County Breakfast Book Club in which students and local

community members, from grandmothers to business leaders, critically read and discuss books. This creative approach has led her students to a deeper appreciation for literature and learning.

Today, I join our central Kentucky community in recognizing a remarkable teacher for making a significant contribution in the lives of her students and to education. I find it most fitting that Mrs. Mardi Montgomery receive this prestigious award.

**BIG SPENDING HURTS TAXPAYERS IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE**

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, we learned a painful lesson in the not so distant past; that when the big spenders in Washington get their way, the taxpayers get the shaft. When the budget is drained to fund all sorts of pork barrel projects and special interest boondoggles, there is nothing left for those who pay the freight: Working American families.

Not only do our working folks fail to get a long overdue and well-deserved tax break, we now learn that the Federal Reserve Board is watching Congress very closely to see if it intends to engage in more reckless spending. If it does, the Fed is apparently ready to raise interest rates to head off any inflation that excessive government spending may bring about.

So who is the big loser? Again, my colleagues may have guessed it, the American taxpayer. Not only is the taxpayer denied a tax reduction, because there is no money left in the bank, but he or she will also pay higher interest rates on mortgages, on car payments, on education loans, on credit cards, et cetera.

Mr. Speaker, this year let us tell the President and his free-spending friends in this body that enough is enough. We are not going to let them pick the taxpayers' pockets any more.

**REPUBLICAN PARTY IS ON NATIONWIDE HOLY WAR TO REDUCE TAXES**

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I have a message for the American people. Let me be perfectly clear: Despite the extraordinary case of amnesia on the part of some about what got us here, amnesia on a scale that is rivaled only by that of Lorena Bobbitt and O.J. Simpson, I wish to state to all Americans that the Republican Party of Ronald Reagan is on a nationwide jihad for lower taxes.

That is right, Mr. Speaker. The Republican Party is on a holy war on behalf of hard-pressed working people whose take-home pay has stagnated. We do not stand for tax cuts tomorrow. We do not stand for tax cuts at some theoretical future date that is conditional on the politicians' good behavior. We do not stand for targeted tax cuts, which we all know is a code for no one is going to get one. We do not stand for some groups and not others. We do not stand for tax relief only for those who are represented by special interest groups.

No, Mr. Speaker, we are for lower taxes for all working Americans, and we want lower taxes now.

**U.N. PROSTITUTION PROTOCOL**

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, imagine a woman filled with hope accepting a new job in a big city. Promises of freedom from manual labor and better income have lured her away from her family. When she meets her new boss, she is crushed. She is given tight clothes to wear, condoms for her customers, she is beaten, raped, locked in a trailer and forced to have sex with whoever walks in the trailer.

Unfortunately, this happens every day in some parts of Asia, Africa, Latin America and, yes, even the United States.

Many of us were surprised to learn that the administration's Interagency Council on Women has apparently been supporting a move to alter the U.N. Convention on Transnational Organized Crime to accept so-called "voluntary" prostitution. They want to adopt what is called the Netherlands' definition of prostitution, which excludes anything that cannot be proven to be coerced.

Mr. Speaker, this would make it virtually impossible to prosecute sex traffickers in nations adopting this protocol. We should oppose the forced Europeanization of America by United Nations' bureaucrats using the failed social policies of the Netherlands.

I hope it is not true, and I hope this will be stopped.

**LISTEN CAREFULLY TO PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS TONIGHT**

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton is going to give his State of the Union message this evening and I am going to listen very, very intently.

I think when we look back at this administration we can see a very successful administration. Prosperity is at an

all-time high, our economy is growing, we are about to set a record in terms of the economy, and that has been done by this President and this administration.

The important things that the President will stress tonight are going to be very, very important to listen to, but I think preserving Social Security and Medicare is something that the American people want and that this administration will do.

A prescription drug program. I know our senior citizens on Medicare need help with prescription drugs.

Targeted tax cuts. We do not need a risky tax scheme that give tax breaks for the rich. We need targeted tax cuts to help middle America, to help the middle class, to help people so that they can pay for college tuition for their sons and daughters.

My daughter is going to college, and families are struggling to try to send their children to college. So the President's proposal to have tax deductions or a tax credit for college students is certainly something that we need.

Gun control, campaign finance reform, a patient's bill of rights, these are the things that Congress should pass this year.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### SUPPORT CITIZENSHIP FOR ELIAN GONZALEZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress who represents the Congressional District of Florida where Elian Gonzalez currently resides, as the mother of two young daughters, and as someone who knows all too well about Castro's brutal tyrannical regime, I ask my colleagues today to support the bill which was introduced by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. McCOLLUM) on Monday which would bestow citizenship upon 6-year-old Elian Gonzalez.

As a Cuban refugee and as a naturalized American myself, I know what an honor it is to be a United States citizen. Elian's mother Elizabeth drowned in her voyage to freedom, but she had a dying wish, to have her 5-year-old son reach the shores of freedom. To honor that deathbed declaration, we are promoting this legislation to grant citizenship to Elian, which will also have the practical effect of taking the case out of INS hands and placing it where it properly belongs, as a delicate cus-

tody issue to be handled by Florida State courts.

Some will argue that Congress should not be involved because it is a custody issue. And those of us who support the bill agree, this is a custody issue and as such it should have been allowed to play out in a court of law. As in every other custody case, a hearing should be held. The parents and the relatives should be afforded an opportunity to testify. Medical experts should render their assessment. Other experts should be granted a forum to present testimony about the conditions in which the child would live and be subjected to in Cuba. And, most importantly, the child would be able to state freely and openly for the record what his desires are and with whom he wishes to live.

However, INS has prevented this orderly process from taking place. It has made a mockery of our laws by making a unilateral summary judgment to return Elian to Cuba and, in so doing, have defamed the principles of justice, of fairness, and of equality under the law which are really the fabric of our society.

Originally, on December 1, 1999, INS quoted to the family, to the attorneys and to the press, "Although it had no role in the family custody decision, we have discussed this case with State of Florida officials who have confirmed that the issue of legal custody must be decided by its State court. However, Elian will remain in the U.S. while the issues surrounding his custody are resolved."

However, this was not to be. INS soon recanted this statement, decided to apply Cuban law instead to this case, and ordered that the boy be returned to Cuba without any semblance of our due process. Faced with this reality, my colleagues and I were compelled to act to protect and uphold Elian's rights as a person under the law; rights not only guaranteed by our constitution and legal system but rights protected by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Article 6 of this convention states, "Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law." Article 7 states, "All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law." And Article 14, "Everyone has the rights to seek and enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution."

This last provision is particularly telling, as INS, in denying Elian his rights and defending only the father's rights under Cuban law, rejected various asylum applications for Elian and unilaterally withdrew his application for admission into the U.S.

There are those who will ignore these arguments and discount the fact that the U.S. and international law requires that the custody issue be resolved in a court of law and simplifies this case to

a question of merely returning the boy to his father. But appropriate steps have not been taken to ascertain whether this in fact is in the boy's best interests, and that should be the guiding standard.

To those advocates who say, no, let us not advocate for that, I ask if they are aware that Castro's laws require that children and youth must prepare themselves for the defense of the country, honoring the principles of proletarian internationalism and combat solidarity? That is a quote from their code. It requires that children under the age of 11 to work long hours in farm labor camps. It mandates society and State work for the efficient protection of youth, and this is a quote, against all influences contrary to their Communist formation.

And the latter one applies even to parents. Just ask Gladys Ibarra-Lugo, age 15, who has for years been denied access to her parents because of their support of Democratic principles and human rights. Their support was contrary to the dictums of the Communist State. Gladys' parents are Amnesty International prisoners of conscience.

I wonder if those who simply say forget the court hearing have really read the testimony of Francisco Garcia. This testimony was included in a report distributed by the United Nations NGO Group for the Convention of the Rights of the Child. Francisco tells of his experience as a child in Cuba, and I commend it to my colleagues.

For Elian's present and future, for the sake of justice, liberty, and equality, I ask my colleagues to support the citizenship bill.

#### PROS AND CONS OF CUBAN EMBARGO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to discuss my recent visit to Cuba. I just returned last evening from a 6-day trip to Cuba where I had the opportunity to meet with the various ministries. I met not only with the minister of health but I went into the neighborhoods, into the neighborhood clinics. I talked with the doctors there, I talked with the patients there, and I got a good understanding of the kind of health care that Cubans are involved with based on health care being one of the national priorities.

I also went to the University of Medicine, where they are training young doctors throughout the region, and I was absolutely amazed at the fact that they have 5,000 young people who are there from all over the Caribbean who are being trained as doctors. It amazes me, because here in the United States it is just so difficult to get young people of color into the universities so